

LOCAL I-S NEWS

for department store workers

VOL. 11, No. 2 334 JANUARY 15, 1960

Union Political Activity Urged To Combat Anti-Labor Campaign



HERALD SQUARE members are shown approving changes in Union Constitution.

Reviewing a year in which American trade unions conducted several costly, major strikes, and lost their battle against the Landrum-Griffin Act, Pres. Sam Kovenetsky and Vice Presidents Phil Hoffstein and Bill Atkinson have called for intensive political education and activity during the current Election Year.

Minimum Budget For N.Y. Family Estimated at \$93

New Yorkers paid higher prices in 1959 for all major commodities with the exception of food and transportation, according to the "Annual Price Survey and Family Budget Costs" just published by the Community Council of Greater New York.

The survey reveals that it costs \$93.12 per week, or \$4,842 a year, to maintain an adequate but modest standard of living for a hypothetical family of 4 consisting of an employed man, his wife, a boy of 13, and a girl of 8.

The cost of living for this family has risen 1.3 per cent or \$105 per year between October, 1958 and October, 1959. A rise of 11.5 per cent or \$626 a year has occurred in the costs of goods and services since the establishment of "A Family Budget Standard" in 1954.

The cost of medical care moved upward, 5.7 per cent, increasing more than any other major category. The rise in the price of haircuts was mainly responsible for the 3.9 per cent increase in personal care. Other goods and services increased in cost by 2.9 per cent.

Members to Get Free Assistance For Tax Return

All Local I-S members in good standing are eligible to receive completely free guidance and advice on filling out their Federal income tax return.

Tax consultants for the union will be Lewis A. Goltz, CPA, who is the union accountant, and two of his associates.

Consultations will be held in the Union Office on Feb. 24, March 2 and March 9. Each session will begin at 3:00 P.M., and will continue each night until every member has been helped.

Mr. Goltz urges members who plan to take advantage of the service to bring in an itemized list of all deductions, particularly medical deductions.

Local I-S members were urged to contribute \$1 each in the forthcoming COPE membership campaign, and to join in an effort to advance labor's goals to aid the welfare of the great majority of the American people. (See page 4.)

The call was issued at the Herald Square and Branch store membership meetings on January 5 and 6. Pres. Kovenetsky delivered his annual State of the Union report at the Manhattan Center meeting attended by 3,000. Reports, identical in substance, were rendered at the branch meetings by the union vice presidents.

Looking forward to Local I-S Macy negotiations in January, 1961 for the next union contract, Pres. Kovenetsky sketched a number of basic perspectives to improve the wages, job security, health plan and pension provisions, as well as reduce hours substantially. He reminded members of the \$2 wage increase, effective Feb. 1, 1960, which was won by the union in its last negotiations.

Changes in Constitution

The membership meetings approved several major changes in the Local I-S Constitution, some required by the Landrum-Griffin Law, others of a constructive nature reflecting, in Pres. Kovenetsky's words, "the growth and maturity of our union."

The three top union officers also reported on Health Plan benefits paid to Local I-S members for illness affecting them and their families. During the 11-month period ending Dec. 31, 1959, Group Health benefits amounting to \$199,433 were paid, reflecting coverage for doctors, diagnostic treatment and X-rays. A total of 6,186 claims were processed by the union.

Blue Cross hospital coverage for the same period amounted to \$254,604, aiding 1,557 members. In addition, 229 pints of blood were disbursed by the Blood Bank.

Pres. Kovenetsky expressed his great pride in the achievements of the Health Plan, and noted in particular the "terrific success" of the Blood Bank. "At \$35 a pint for blood, our members saved a good bit of money as well as having the blood in reserve for them as needed," he said.

If members have any questions about their benefits under the Local I-S plan, they should contact the union office. (Continued on page 3)

Are Confusion, 'Incidents' Necessary in Pre-Christmas Shopping Period?

New Westminster, Canada—A perspiring department store woman cashier told a customer, "There must be an easier way to making a living," and walked straight out of the store. (Canadian Press.)

This must be the sentiment of many in Macy's during the Christmas period, and certainly among those in DA-CT. There union members interview customers, handle applications for the new DA's and CT's, and process adjustments.

Since the new DA's were instituted, a numbers system was set up so that customers would have their proper turn. Sounds logical, but turmoil was the result. Customers are not always patient folk, and they would often return their numbered slips, and confuse the sequence. And customers too, in a burst of indignation or rage would sometimes storm to one of the windows and demand to be serviced before their turn.

One customer did just that. However, the clerk declined to do other than as instructed: follow the numbers system. The customer then complained to an executive supervisor, saying the clerk was lazy.

And the clerk was subjected to a corrective interview which now forms part of her record.

Administrator Mildred Kaplonski has arranged to have the clerk file a grievance which raises this question: Can a corrective interview be written when a customer demands to be helped out of turn?

The answer has not yet come from Macy's management.

One distressing incident occurred when an executive in the Toy department attempted to strike a Christmas temporary, and instead hit Ann Tucker on the head, knocking her to the floor.

Letter on Toy Department

December 26, 1959

Dear Bill,
Just a note of appreciation for the fighting column you and Phil wrote for the last issue of our Union newspaper.

Despite our repeated demands that executives who work in the Toy Department refrain from doing staff work, and are so required by written agreement between Local I-S and Macy's, this type of prohibited activity was performed by many junior executives at various times throughout the Xmas season.

It is very interesting to note that practically every grievance carried the same answer: At the (Continued on page 2)

This happened on Christmas eve, Thursday, Dec. 24, and she had to be helped to Macy's hospital, and sent home in a cab. Ann was unable to report for work on the following Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. When she returned to work, she was told she would not be paid for the time lost because of the injury.

Administrator John Tercy contacted the 16th Floor and discussed the matter, and was advised by Mr. Steinberg of Labor Relations that despite the company's previous position, Ann would be paid for all time lost.

In addition to her several painful injuries and the disturbing statement that she would lose pay after having been the innocent victim of the incident, Ann was also upset by the cavalier indifference of Macy's hospital manager Troup. When Ann told her she had been subject to nose bleeding since the blow on the head, Miss Troup dismissed the statement, saying, "That's nothing. I had one this morning."

But did Miss Troup get her nose bleed from being hit accidentally on the head, in the store?

One of the fairly common confusions during the Christmas (Continued on page 2)

JAN 15 1960 XUM

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Divisional Meeting Schedule

This is the only official notice to be given for Divisional Meetings for all members including Saturday-Onlies and Fractionals.

Admission will be by 1959 Union card. An unexcused absence will be liable to a \$2 assessment to the Welfare Fund as provided for in Article IX, Section 4 of the Local 1-S Constitution.

Absence excuses must be filed with your Shop Steward within five days before or after the scheduled date of your meeting.

GROUP	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Food	Tues., Jan. 26	7:00 P.M.	Auditorium
Packing	Wed., Jan. 27	6:45 P.M.	Auditorium
Adv.-B of S-Comp.-Display	Mon., Feb. 1	6:30 P.M.	Auditorium
Street Floor	Tues., Feb. 2	6:45 P.M.	Hotel New Yorker (Terrace Rm.)
8th Floor	Tues., Feb. 2	6:45 P.M.	Auditorium
ASD	Wed., Feb. 3	6:45 P.M.	Auditorium
7th Floor	Tues., Feb. 9	6:45 P.M.	Auditorium
Controllers	Wed., Feb. 10	6:45 P.M.	Auditorium
MTE	Wed., Feb. 10	6:45 P.M.	Conference Room
Housekeeping	Sun., Feb. 14	2:30 P.M.	Auditorium
Receiving	Tues., Feb. 16	6:30 P.M.	Hotel New Yorker (New Orleans Rm.)
5th Floor	Tues., Feb. 16	6:45 P.M.	Auditorium
6th Floor	Wed., Feb. 17	6:45 P.M.	Auditorium
DA	Tues., Mar. 8	6:45 P.M.	Auditorium
4th Floor	Wed., Mar. 9	6:45 P.M.	Auditorium
Basement	Tues., Mar. 15	6:45 P.M.	Auditorium
2nd Floor	Wed., Mar. 16	6:45 P.M.	Auditorium

BRANCHES

BRANCH	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Parkchester	Wed., Jan. 27	6:30 P.M.	Chester House
White Plains	Tues., Feb. 16	6:30 P.M.	V.F.W.
Flatbush	Wed., Mar. 9	6:30 P.M.	Rivoli
Jamaica	Wed., Mar. 16	6:30 P.M.	Amer. Legion

Executive Board Members and Shop Stewards Will Be Elected at These Meetings

Parkchester News

Congratulations to Grace Mennona, P9, on the wedding of her daughter, oJan. . . Fay Abbate, P88, and Lee Iocio, P19, are displaying beautiful engagement rings. Lots of good luck! . . . Lillian Branca, P9, has just celebrated 30 years of marital bliss. May we wish Lillian and her husband many, many more! . . . Deepest sympathy to Doris Shoemaker, P12, on the loss of her mother. . . And please, don't forget our Annual Dinner Dance on March 5. Get your tickets now, and you can reserve the table you want to have with your friends.

NATALIE TULLY

PERSONALS

FOR SALE—Television console, with doors. 17" Dumont. Genuine mahogany. Excellent working condition. Very reasonably priced. Call TR 2-4081 after 6 P.M.

FOR SALE—Formica table. Coral top. Excellent condition, reasonable price. Call TA 2-1314 after 6 P.M.

FOR SALE—Persian Lamb coat and muff. Size 16. Good condition, reasonable. Call TR 4-6736, 7 to 10 P.M. except Monday or Thursday.

FOR SALE—Zircon ring. Large stone, 14 karat setting. \$25, originally \$41. Write to Sophie Spito, c/o Local 1-S News, 290 Seventh Ave., N. Y.

Contribute your COPE dollar today!

Question: Is Mix-Up Necessary at Xmas?

(Continued from page 1)

shopping period came about from the temporary change in status of part-timers to a full-time schedule.

Thus, in several cases, members who were temporarily assigned to 40 hours a week learned to their dismay they received only five hours' holiday pay for Christmas or New Year's Day, when those holidays occurred during their full-time assignment.

After taking the matter up with the 16th Floor, Administrator John Tercy straightened out this particular problem. Part-timers are nevertheless reminded to have their staff numbers changed when they change to a full-time schedule.

Letter on Toy Department

(Continued from page 1)

first step it was said that when Mr. Executive was advised of, and that he understood, the applicable paragraphs of the contract. And (2) at the second step when management answered that the assistant divisional superintendent concurred with the supervisor's answer. These answers were the same even on the second and third grievances against the same executive.

If our Union people were to disregard Macy's rules with the same indifference that Macy's executives show for a written contract, these same executives would be writing "corrective interviews" and "cautions" and "warnings" as fast as they could turn them out.

In these hypothetical cases, our people would suffer a much more serious type of punishment for disobeying a verbal order than the Macy's executive who wilfully disobeys a written contract.

Exec. Bd. Hears Report On Purchase of Building

Basement 1-S'ers 'Pass the Hat' For Robbed Nun

A sneak thief, who deserves the title of "rat of the year," robbed Sister Thomas of the Holy Spirit Convent in the Bronx while she was shopping in the Basement.

The \$30 which was stolen belonged to orphan kids. Sister Thomas had been shopping for Christmas gifts for them, and she was naturally very upset when she discovered her loss.

When the news spread in the immediate vicinity, the sales clerks, largely in Dept. 11, immediately took up a collection. First time around, reports Marion Jurison, 11-172, they raised \$19, which they gave to her.

Later on, other union members in the Basement "chipped in," and over \$30 in all was contributed, and forwarded to the nun.

Retired Members December, 1959

M. Coughlin, 11-307
Alice Nolte, RMMY-17
Theresa Lombardi, HDC-27
Harry Dupree, MC-548
Anna Buttner, BMC-2
Julia Friedman, RMCY-143
Grace Abrams, 51-12
Sarah Goodman, CAS-12
Mary Kelly, 88-25
Mae Phelan, CDG-30

I think that in our next contract the actions of Macy's executives that are in violation of Sec. 1.04 should be subject to our control.

IRVING SMOOKE

At the Local 1-S Executive Board meeting on December 29, 1959, reports were approved which noted negotiations for the purchase of the union's present headquarters building, cited the improvement of food in the Cafeteria, and reviewed plans for activities, an educational institute, and a COPE campaign. The meeting was chaired by First Vice Pres. Phil Hoffstein.

COPE chairman Ed Jennings, Sewing Machines, reported that a COPE committee meeting would be held on January 6, and the committee hopes to have the shipment of COPE membership books by that date.

Cecilia G. Curry gave the financial report.

Activities Chairman Jerry Harte, Boys Clothing, described details of the tour to Hawaii and California. It will last 18 days, beginning June 24 and ending July 11. He asked all those interested to make their application for the tour by Jan. 13.

Pres. Sam Kovenetsky reported on the Cafeteria problem. The union officers had visited the Cafeteria on late nights, and at lunch times. Management has complied with the officers' complaints, he reported, and meals have been improved.

Vice Pres. Hoffstein reported on the Weekend Institute to be held for Executive Board members on January 15-17 at Freehold, N. Y. He requested that all applications be in before Jan. 6.

He also reported on the serious negotiations, and probable purchase of the existing union headquarters at 290 Seventh Avenue, if the various factors involved were satisfactory to the union.

The agenda for the General Membership meetings on Jan. 5 and 6 was proposed and approved. It consists of a financial report, President's Report, Constitutional changes, and Good and Welfare.

Vice Pres. Hoffstein also reported that transportation would be provided for the union organizers who must travel to Roosevelt Island, and Paramus in New Jersey. Cars will be rented for that purpose.

John Malone reported on the meeting of the N.Y. Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO. He recommended that the union contribute to a program to combat juvenile delinquency. He accepted an amendment by Pres. Sam Kovenetsky that the union officers decide on the amount of the contribution, and the motion was passed.

Macy's Fails to Post Vacation Schedules

Local 1-S members in many departments have reported that their winter vacation schedules are not being posted, or posted late, thereby violating the union contract.

Section 6.02 (b) of the union contract notes that "The Employer shall, on or before the first day of the month in which such vacation is to be taken, post the vacation schedules of employees scheduled to take vacations during such month."

In order to make their plans for vacations, members are advised to remind their supervisors of these unfortunate delays.

Members are also reminded that after a vacation date has been made, and agreed upon, Macy's must give at least a month's notice to change the schedule.



JAMAICA MEMBERS listen attentively to summary of union activities.



FLATBUSH MEETING is crowded "to the rafters" to hear State of the Union Report.

TALKING SHOP

BY VICE PRESIDENTS

PHIL HOFFSTEIN AND BILL ATKINSON

There is one important subject on the work schedule of every union officer every day of the year. That subject is: to improve the knowledge and effectiveness of every union representative in advancing the interests of the union and its members.

The finest union contract in the world would mean very little if its provisions were ignored, if the union and its members permitted contract violations to go unchallenged. A union contract consists, in effect, of a body of law governing the actions and standards of an employer and a group of workers represented by their union.

If this industrial law is evaded by the employer, the whole structure of industrial relations can crumble. In civil life, the police and the courts enforce the law. In labor-management relations, it's primarily up to the union, and its executive board members and shop stewards, with the active help of every member, to enforce the contract and see that every member receives his full rights under this law.

In addition, as every member of this union knows, Macy's does everything possible to ensure the protection of the company's rights.

Macy's, like most giant businesses and corporations, should be given full credit for the skill and ingenuity with which it seeks to protect its interests. Having ample financial resources, the company has greatly increased its labor relations staff over the years. It has hired high-priced executive talent. It has sent its executives to universities like Harvard for careful training. It has carefully coordinated its information with other retailers through the retail federations and other clearinghouses in order most effectively to represent its management and stockholders in dealing with Local 1-S members.

Like many other huge corporations, Macy's has developed an extensive labor relations, public relations and community relations program. They work with tremendous budgets; they get results.

Around the country, trade unions have increasingly risen to the challenge. They have developed new, improved techniques of education and communication. These new methods have sometimes proved unsuccessful against the massive propaganda campaigns of Big Business, as in the case of the Landrum-Griffin law.

But in the area of bread-and-butter labor-management relations, American unions have been more successful. In Local 1-S, we have had to learn too. And in a few days, we will conduct our first, intensive educational institute for about 40 Executive Board members.

Our educational approach is simple. The heart of the problem is to raise the level of floor and departmental leadership to the highest efficiency. The Executive Board members and shop stewards are the top sergeants of our union army. They are "on the line."

Their energy and clarity of thinking provide the essential basis for the successful handling of grievances to provide accurate information about union rights, duties and services, to deal with supervisors and executives regarding all the everyday concerns and problems of our members.

First problem, then, is to work with our top sergeants. For many years we have had our annual stewards' conferences. But now, we are borrowing the idea of the incentive institute from scores of alert unions in every trade and industry.

We have scheduled a weekend institute for Jan. 15-17 which will provide for a study, and we do mean study, of the basic areas of trade union information. The institute will be held at Freehold, N. Y. Our agenda will begin Friday night, cover all day Saturday into the early evening, and conclude with a Sunday morning session.

We have drafted experts to spend their weekend time with us. Asher Schwartz, our union attorney; Louis Levine, labor representative of the N.Y. AFL-CIO Community Services Committee; and Adolph Gersh, our workmen's compensation counselor will join Pres. Kovenetsky and ourselves in giving lectures, and leading the various seminars.

Subjects covered will be Grievance Procedure and Arbitration, The History of Local 1-S, Workmen's Compensation, Community Services and Social Services, The Legal Position of the Union, and COPE.

We propose to have a maximum amount of time for discussion to enable Board members to exchange ideas and information, and work out solutions to common problems. In addition we will use some of the panel and role-playing techniques which re-create "real situations." And we will make extensive use of visual aids.

It is no news to members of Local 1-S that trade unionism is facing its greatest challenge since Taft-Hartley, and some would say since the first great organizing days of the CIO.

We propose to catch up with the times. We can't do everything we would like to. But this institute method of intensive education seems to be one of the most successful. We'll try it, and we'll see. If it is as successful as we expect, there will be more of the same.

At Membership Meetings:

Political Activity Is Urged To Safeguard Union Rights

(Continued from page 1)

cal 1-S Health Plan, they were urged to contact the Health Administrator at the Union Office. Cecilia G. Curry, Local 1-S financial secretary, gave the financial report.

Reviewing the negotiations which led to the current union agreement, Pres. Kovenetsky recalled the company's demand for a five-year contract, which would have strengthened its hand in day-to-day union-management relations, and forestalled the possibility of change for that period. "We had to beat back that demand," he said, "and we did."

Summarizing the members' gains in the contract, he cited the \$5 increase, with \$3 effective Feb. 1, 1959, and \$2 effective Feb. 1, 1960. A clause covering anesthesia was added to the Health Plan, the pension was improved to a maximum of \$35, at age 65, after 25 years employment.

The wage floor was increased to \$50, after six months, the sick benefit was increased as of Feb. 1, 1960, an improved job security clause providing for 9-month recall rights after layoff was included, and women members became eligible for retirement at age 62.

Local 1-S Strong

"We proved our ability once more to vigorously and strongly fight on behalf of our members," Pres. Kovenetsky declared.

But he emphasized that after gains have been achieved in the contract, and victories accomplished, Local 1-S members do not take advantage of these gains which may, in practice, cease to exist.

The prohibition against execu-

Local 1-S Members Who Passed Away Eulogized at Meeting

At the General Membership Meeting in Manhattan Center, First Vice Pres. Phil Hoffstein eulogized the members of Local 1-S who had passed away during 1959.

He paid tribute to the part each had contributed to the common experience of the union members, and their values, friendships and mutual goals.

The roster of names consisted of: Mary Olsen, 18-15; Margaret Stocker, SF-24; Eva Neuman, 33-171; Anne Smith, MCO-181; Anselme Lauzon, 941-68; Kermit Parham, MTE-21; Phillip Simmons, C-650; Samuel Goldman, 92-25; Anna Varriale, 11-054; Michael Barry, RRDE-3; Joseph McInerney, MTEP-18; Elizabeth Hendricks, CDT-16; Justo Vargaa, HNP-2658; Marshall Harris, HNP-2853; and

Also Margaret Schlott, 128-62; Helen Tierney, FIO-53; Anna Kessler, PKW-50; Alex Green, 10-03MAF; Henry Ward, MTE-106; Elizabeth Malone, GU-6; Irene Ernst, 125-02MGE; Alfred Kahn, 939-01; Frank Sasso, HNP-2353; James Coyle, 93-10; Scott Davidson, MTE-83; Mollie Horowitz, 913-13; John Burns, 74-902; Anne Devlin (retired), 15-942; Howard Hofer, P12-84; Agnes Manion, J12-188; and Lucy Uhl, P10-57.

Kovenetsky Suggests Department 'Kitties' To Back Negotiations

To strengthen the union's position in January, 1961 negotiations for a new union contract, Pres. Kovenetsky recommended in his State of the Union report that every department, area and floor begin to establish a financial pool in the near future.

"In the event of an emergency developing in these talks, we will want to know — and you will want to know — that every union group has built up a kitty."

He described the proposal as a suggestion, at this time.

tives doing staff work, the failure of members to come directly to the union after receiving a warning, the neglect of grievance machinery to win justice in a special case and defend standards for all union members, even the neglect of opportunities to increase their chances for promotion — all were cited by the Local 1-S president as examples where the union could help, but that help was sometimes not sought.

"We went on strike twice," Pres. Kovenetsky stated, "because the practice of executives doing staff work destroys work opportunities. And can you imagine? We have seen union members working side by side with executives doing staff work. There's the executive breaking the union contract, and the union member there allowing him to!"

Make Use of Union

Such actions were intolerable, he declared. And he added that "the company of course knows about these derelictions. And what's more they throw them up to us when we negotiate."

"Let your union help you," he urged. "Take advantage of its strength, stability and resources. That's what it's for."

At the same time that Local 1-S was struggling for a better contract, the national political and economic climate continued to become worse. With the McClellan Committee smearing the entire labor movement, although it exposed the scandals of only one union, Big Business and reactionary politicians joined in legislating Landrum-Griffin, which hinders all unions.

The Landrum-Griffin Law not only interferes in the internal affairs of the entire labor movement, he noted, but has thrown up new roadblocks to trade union organization, including Local 1-S efforts.

Pres. Kovenetsky highly praised the Steelworkers for "their courage

and stamina" in maintaining their union solidarity until they achieved their inspiring victory.

"They fought the battle for all working people in the country," the Local 1-S president declared. But he expressed the opinion that other industries, other management less susceptible to political pressures would continue the tough, "We're-the-boss" line which has been the steady trend.

"Vice Pres. Nixon and Secretary of Labor Mitchell got into the act and have tried to make some political hay out of the steel settlement," he said. "But why don't they step into the Henderson Textile strike where people have been shot, and the National Guard is helping the strikebreakers. Or why don't they step into the Wilson strike where the courts are playing the game of a 'break-the-union' company management?"

Conflicts Expected

"1960 will be a crucial, decisive year. We will see the election of a president of our great, powerful nation, and of a large number of Congressmen and Senators. For all the talk of prosperity, working people have serious problems in getting along on their take-home pay, in getting adequate housing to replace slums, in better schools and services, in getting a type of national leadership which places the welfare of its citizens before the profits of its corporations."

"We know from Taft-Hartley and now Landrum-Griffin why large-scale political action by unions and their members is vital to safeguard the very existence of American labor. This contribution to our own security and welfare can be made by each of us by acting as citizens, as well as trade unionists," Pres. Kovenetsky declared.

Membership Meeting Approves Changes In '1-S' Constitution

The general membership meetings of Herald Square and the branch stores overwhelmingly approved eight changes in the Union Constitution proposed by the officers and Executive Board.

Five changes were required by the recently passed Landrum-Griffin Law. They dealt with reduction of officers' terms of office to three years, bonding, 15 days' notice to members of elections, and a secret ballot for the approval of dues or initiation increases.

Three changes were suggested on the union's own free will and reflected desirable changes to meet changing needs and goals of the union. These changes explicitly authorized the union to support political candidates, authorized the union to purchase a headquarters, and clarified the status of retired and resigned members in regard to honorary membership.

Full texts of the changes as proposed, and duly approved, were printed in the Dec. 15, 1959 issue of "Local 1-S News."

Copies may be obtained by any member from the Union Office.

LOCAL 1-S NEWS

Published Twice Monthly except June, July, August when published monthly by

LOCAL 1-S DEPARTMENT STORE WORKERS UNION
RWDSU, AFL-CIO

290 Seventh Avenue New York 1, N. Y.

President: Sam Kovenetsky

1st Vice Pres.: Philip Hoffstein

2nd Vice Pres.: William Atkinson

Editorial Board

Jerome Harris, Oliver Garrett, Celi Curry, Morgan White

Editor: Norman L. Sobel

Annual Subscription \$1

Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post Office New York, N. Y.

Union Opens '60 COPE Campaign



You Can Register NOW, COPE Committee Reports

Did you know that under Permanent Personal Registration, any resident of New York City can register now and throughout most of the year?

This is the question which the Local 1-S COPE Committee is asking every member who is not registered.

New voters, those who have not previously registered, or those who have lost their registration because they have moved or failed to vote for two years may register at their borough Board of Elections from now through September. The offices of the Board of Elections are open weekdays 9 to 5, and Saturdays 9 to 12.

County Board of Elections offices are as follows:

Bronx: 1780 Grand Concourse, CY 9-9017.

Kings (Brooklyn): Municipal Building, Joralemon and Court Sts., TR 5-7100.

New York (Manhattan): 80 Varick St., CA 6-2600.

Queens: Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens, BO 8-5000.

Richmond (Staten Island): 30 Bay Street, St. George, SA 7-1955.

Democracy works best when all the people participate. Are you registered to vote? If not, make your plans right now to register at your County Elections office!

For additional information, call or write the COPE Committee, care of Local 1-S, 290 Seventh Ave.

Tax Figures Show Wealthy Doing OK

What are the real facts about taxes on high incomes? Are wealthy people being taxed into poverty, as some of their spokesman claim.

The latest compilation covers 1957. 223 individuals showed an annual income of over a million dollars that year. Another 22,936 had incomes between \$100,000 and a million that year. There were 600,000 who made from \$20,000 to \$100,000.

The average income of this group was \$190,000 before taxes. Average tax paid was \$85,000. Here is proof that the existing

income tax is not reducing the doleful millionaires to poverty. All the talk about "confiscatory taxes" is just so much hogwash. And now that profits are going up, up, up, you can figure that there are that many more millionaires making more millions in "take home" pay.

Interested in unemployment figures? Total jobless, early this year, will rise to about 4,250,000, a Labor Department official estimates. The rate of unemployment during 1959 continued at a rate of about 5 per cent.

An Election Year all-out COPE campaign to obtain \$1.00 contributions, educate on political issues and promote registration for voting has been launched by Local 1-S.

Spearheaded by the union's Committee on Political Education, the 1960 campaign is expected to rally the greatest financial support and political

Kovenetsky Describes COPE as Key Force For Social Progress

In 1959, when Macy President Arthur Manchec sent a letter to all executives telling them to send letters to Congress supporting the Landrum-Griffin Act, Local 1-S members learned first hand why they must support COPE, the political education unit of American labor.

So commented Pres. Kovenetsky in his State of the Union report. And when Mr. Manchec asked to see duplicates of the letters sent, Pres. Kovenetsky added, we can judge the seriousness with which Macy and many of the other giant corporations have gone into politics.

He noted that Macy Vice Pres. Fred. Fischer, responsible for personnel and labor relations, is also responsible for legislative action in the major retail industry federation. Here is further evidence, close to hand, why Local 1-S members have a large stake in politics, and this year above all others.

The union's president noted that big business spokesmen were seeking to overthrow child labor legislation, and put 14- and 15-year-old youngsters to work, impairing their education and personal development, and undercutting the whole pattern of union wages.

This is the thinking of Big Business to fight juvenile delinquency, he pointed out. Why not recreation centers and skilled guidance for these kids? Pres. Kovenetsky declared.

Our answer is to get behind COPE. No other political force in American life so steadfastly represents the interests of all working people as this political arm of the AFL-CIO.

Democratic Leader Doubts '60 Retail Wage Coverage

Rep. John McCormack (D-Mass.), Majority Leader in the House, was interviewed on an AFL-CIO radio program. He was asked, among other things, about passing an improved minimum wage law.

There's a "good chance" of increasing the legal minimum wage, he said.

"Extending the coverage is going to be more difficult," he added. "It would be easier to get a bill if an increase were in one bill and extension of coverage in another."

Since extension of coverage refers primarily to retail and department store workers, Local 1-S members may be interested in his political tactics, but not enthusiastic about his lack of enthusiasm.

If he is the Majority Leader, at least some trade unionists would like him to Lead the Majority, meaning the Democrats. Maybe the example of the Senate Leader, Lyndon Johnson (D-Tex.), has deterred him.

participation in the history of the union.

COPE membership books with thousands of receipts have been distributed to hundreds of Local 1-S executive Board members and shop stewards. As in the past, special prizes will be awarded to those who sell the most COPE memberships, and also to the holders of lucky numbers. The committee has also scheduled a social affair for committee members and active participants in the drive.

Stimulating the large-scale campaign has been the serious concern not only regarding the massive anti-labor activities during past years, but the deep feeling that this nation is not responding boldly to the many challenges on the domestic and international scenes.

"Too little or not at all" has been the slogan characterizing the failure to meet the needs of the American people. All the experts say the United States is prosperous, but scores of millions of people work for inadequate wages, live in slums, send their children to schools which are firetraps, and watch their youngsters learn the ways of juvenile delinquency because of insufficient social services. Millions of elderly people

cannot afford medical care.

Legislators talk endlessly about civil rights, but millions of Negroes are disfranchised under the one-party system in the South.

The Soviet Union and its allies extend their domain, and outstrip the United States in military science and technology. But the failure of national leadership results only in talk about improving scientific education, and budgetary cutbacks in space development. The national budget has become the ultimate standard of government, and individual betterment has become not the purpose of government, but an afterthought—if the budget permits.

Trade unionists have seen both the Republicans and the Democrats in many areas fail to rise to the great challenges of the decade. Increasingly, they are turning to COPE as the political voice of American labor, which is the most powerful, consistent force for social progress and individual welfare in American life.

The Local 1-S 1960 COPE campaign will demonstrate the desire of the union's members, within the limits of their financial means, to strengthen labor and labor's national goals.

MEDICAL PLAN—For the name and address of the doctor, dentist, optometrist or podiatrist nearest you CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540 or Associated Physicians Medical Group—BU 8-4210 (Night or Day) when the Union Office is closed. Complete schedule of fees available upon request.

Full information on benefits and regulations can be obtained from the health plan consultant at the union. Members are also asked to remind their doctors that all claim forms must be returned to the Local 1-S office.

BLOOD BANK—If you need blood from the Blood Bank CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540.

"Fork Up, Or Else!"



Return This Coupon Immediately to Your Administrator, Steward or Board Member, Or Mail It to the Union Office

LOCAL 1-S COPE COMMITTEE
290 Seventh Avenue
New York 1, N. Y.

☐ I want to join our union's COPE Committee to assist in the political education of our fellow members, to promote registration for voting, and stimulate interest in our members' participation in electoral activity.

☐ Enclosed is \$1.00 for my COPE membership.

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